

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15865

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA

REFS: A. STATE 261338

B. MANILA 14409

C. MANILA 14539

1. IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS (REF A), I RAISED ISSUE OF PHILIPPINE VOTING ON KOREAN ITEM IN UNGA WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MORNING NOVEMBER 12. MARCOS REVIEWED OUR LAST CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT (REF B) AND THE INSTRUCTIONS HE SENT ROMULO (REF C).

2. MARCOS SAID THAT, WHEN ROMULO RECEIVED HIS INSTRUCTIONS, HE ASKED FOR RECONSIDERATION AND, INDEED, RECOMMENDED STRONGLY, ON GROUNDS PHILIPPINE INTERESTS IN UN, THAT GOP ABSTAIN ON BOTH KOREAN RESOLUTIONS. HE CLAIMED TO BE UNDER HEAVY THIRD WORLD PRESSURES. MARCOS SAID HE REJECTED ROMULO'S ADVICE, BECAUSE HE FELT THAT POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS IN NORTHEAST ASIA WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN VOTING CONFIGURATIONS IN UNGA.

3. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE DID AUTHORIZE ROMULO TO ABSTAIN ON
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ALGERIAN RESOLUTION IF PHILIPPINE NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD BE

IRRELEVANT TO ITS POSSIBLE DEFEAT. HE SAID HE DID THIS
BECAUSE ROMULO ESTIMATED THAT ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD
CARRY OVERWHELMINGLY.

4. I SAID KOREAN ISSUE WOULD ARISE AGAIN SOON IN PLENARY
AND U.S. HOPED PHILIPPINES WOULD, ON THAT OCCASION, VOTE
FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BUT AGAINST THE HOSTILE
ALGERIAN ONE. MARCOS SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON SUPPORT FOR
CANADIAN RESOLUTION STILL STAND, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER A
NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD BE OF ANY
VALUE. ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY COLLANTES, WHO WAS PRESENT,
SAID THAT HE AND ROMULO EXPECTED PATTERN OF VOTE ON BOTH
RESOLUTIONS TO REMAIN THE SAME IN PLENARY AS IN FIRST
COMMITTEE.

5. MARCOS THEN ASKED HOW MANY VOTES WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE
FROM ABSTENTION TO NEGATIVE IN ORDER TO DEFEAT ALGERIAN
RESOLUTION. COLLANTES ESTIMATED THIRTEEN OR FOURTEEN.
MARCOS THEN ASKED COLLANTES TO TELEPHONE ROMULO AND ASK
THAT QUESTION BE STUDIED. HE SAID THAT, IF ENOUGH VOTES
CHANGED SO THAT PHILIPPINE VOTE ON ALGERIAN RESOLUTION
SHOULD BECOME DECISIVE, " WE CERTAINLY OUGHT TO CONSIDER"
CHANGING PHILIPPINE VOTE.

6. COMMENT: PHILIPPINE VOTE IN FAVOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION
SEEMS CERTAIN. HOWEVER, CONSISTENT WITH OTHER ASEAN
COUNTRIES, WE MUST EXPECT A PHILIPPINE ABSTENTION ON
ALGERIAN RESOLUTION UNLESS WE CAN HONESTLY STATE THAT
PHILIPPINE VOTE WOULD BE DECISIVE IN THE UNGA.
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